

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 12-18 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, claim 1 is cancelled, claims 2, 4, 6 and 18 are amended; and new claim 19 is added. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Therefore, claims 2-8 and 12-19 are now present in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 8 and 12-17 are allowed and that claims 2-5 are directed to allowable subject matter. In this Amendment, claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form, which include all of the limitations of base claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,762,646 to Dollar (hereinafter "the Dollar patent").

In response, claim 1 has been cancelled and allowable claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.

Claim 7 depends from and adds further limitations to claim 4 and is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed in connection with claim 4. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness based upon the Dollar patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,179,353 to Heatherington et al. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness based upon U.S. Patent No.

6,579,189 to Anzaldua in view of the Dollar patent. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections.

Claim 6 depends from and adds further limitations to amended independent claim 2 and is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed in connection with claim 2. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been amended to include elements of claim 2, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Therefore, claims 6 and 18 are believed to be patentable. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6 and 18 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claim 19 has been added by this Amendment. Claim 19 includes all of the limitations of claim 18 along with the limitations of allowable claim 4. Therefore, Claim 19 is also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record because claim 19 includes the limitations of allowable claim 4.

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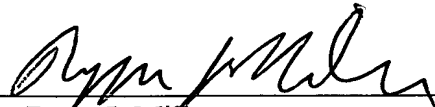
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 2-8 and 12-19 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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